

Docket No. 30013630-0004

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Enclosed are:

- ☒ 37 pages of specification, 15 pages of claims and an abstract.
- ☐ an executed oath or declaration, with power of attorney.
- ☒ an unexecuted oath or declaration, with power of attorney.
- ☒ 30 sheet(s) of informal drawing(s).
- ☐ sheet(s) of formal drawings(s).
- ☐ Assignment(s) of the invention to .
- ☐ Assignment Form Cover Sheet.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ to cover the fee for recording the assignment(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Associate power of attorney.

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Attorney Docket No: 30013630-0004

Serial or Patent No.: _____

Filed or Issued: _____

For: Method And System For Generating, Applying, And Defining A Pattern

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(c) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN)

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN: TogetherSoft Corporation

ADDRESS OF CONCERN: 920 Main Campus Drive, Suite 410, Raleigh, North Carolina 27606

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled:

☐ Method And System For Generating, Applying, And Defining A Pattern

☐ By inventors Peter Coad; Dietrich Charisius; and Alexander Aptus

described in:

☒ the specification filed herewith.

Application Serial No.: _____, filed _____

Patent No.: _____, issued _____

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern, or organization having rights to the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).
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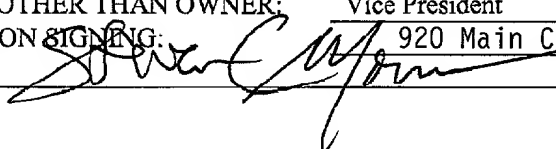
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

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SIGNATURE:  DATE: 10/3/00

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U.S. Patent Application No. _____, entitled "Method And System For Collapsing A Graphical Representation Of Related Elements," bearing attorney docket no. 30013630-0005, and filed on the same date herewith.

The present invention relates generally to data processing systems and, more particularly, to methods and systems for generating, applying, and defining patterns for software development.

Patterns are a literary form of software engineering problem-solving discipline. The goal of patterns within the software community is to create a body of literature to help software developers resolve recurring problems encountered in various domains (e.g., software architecture and design, and software development processes and organizations) throughout all of software development. Patterns help create a shared language for

communicating insight and experience about the recurring problems and their solutions to promote proven techniques while avoiding “re-inventing the wheel.”

In general, a pattern is the abstraction from a concrete form that keeps recurring in specific non-arbitrary contexts. Each pattern has at least one participant, and each participant plays a role in the pattern. For example, one well-known pattern is an adapter pattern. The adapter pattern solves the recurring problem of allowing classes, which could not otherwise work together, to work together because of incompatible interfaces. As is well known in object-oriented programming, a class is a blueprint used to create an object that has a known identity, state, and behavior. An interface is an abstract class or a Java™ interface that unrelated objects can use to interact with one another. It defines a set of method signatures, but does not implement them. A class that implements the interface agrees to implement all of the methods defined in the interface. The adapter pattern identifies the following as participants in its pattern: a client class, a target interface, an adapter class, and an adaptee class. The roles of these participants in the adapter pattern are described as follows. The client class calls methods associated with the target interface. The adaptee class has a method that a software developer wants the client class to call, but the adaptee’s method is not supported by the target interface. Rather than modify the adaptee class to implement the target interface, which may not be an option if the software developer doesn’t have the source code for the adaptee class, the software developer manually codes the adapter class participant to implement the target interface such that it calls the adaptee class method. This effectively delegates the method call from the client to the adapter so that the client class can remain independent from the adaptee class. Following the adapter pattern to delegate method calls made through a single interface is especially important where a client class needs to call multiple methods from different classes that are not associated with the single interface.

Software visionaries have published descriptions of a number of patterns in addition to the adapter pattern that solve a variety of common design problems faced by software developers. The published descriptions typically utilize the well-known Unified Modeling Language (UML) to graphically illustrate a pattern. UML is a general-purpose notational language for visualizing, specifying, constructing, and documenting complex object-oriented software systems. UML is more clearly described in the following references, which are incorporated herein by reference: (1) Martin Fowler, UML Distilled Second Edition:

Applying the Standard Object Modeling Language, Addison-Wesley (1999); (2) Booch, Rumbaugh, and Jacobson, The Unified Modeling Language User Guide, Addison-Wesley (1998); (3) Peter Coad, Jeff DeLuca, and Eric Lefebvre, Java Modeling in Color with UML: Enterprise Components and Process, Prentice Hall (1999); and (4) Peter Coad, Mark Mayfield, and Jonathan Kern, Java Design: Building Better Apps & Applets (2nd Ed.), Prentice Hall (1998).

These literary descriptions and graphical representations identify the following elements of a pattern: a meaningful pattern name that reflects the knowledge and structure of the pattern, the underlying problem solved and the context in which the problem seems to recur, the solution in terms of its participants (e.g., classes and objects) and the relationships between its participants (e.g., static and dynamic rules for composition, inheritance, and instantiation that generally dictate the roles of pattern participants), and the ramifications of applying the pattern (e.g., tradeoffs based on chosen design pattern alternative). It is up to the software developer to manually generate the code corresponding to the pattern and tailor it to the given application or project. This manual generation of a pattern instance suffers from a number of problems: first, it is time-consuming, tedious, and subject to human error; and second, a software developer that is behind in his work will typically skip commenting his code to reflect the use of a common pattern. Hence, other software developers looking to make use of or replace the common pattern cannot easily locate it within the existing code. Conventional software development tools do not address these problems.

Software visionaries have also published techniques to follow for redesigning unwieldy program code prior to or concurrent with adding new functionality that may otherwise add to the complexity of the existing program. These techniques are collectively known as “refactoring.” Refactoring rejuvenates software by improving the structure and performance of existing software without changing the behavior of the software. When refactoring, the software developer typically takes manual, incremental steps to improve the structure of existing code to reduce complexity and avoid prolonged debugging. Such incremental steps may include renaming a method, moving a field from one class to another, or consolidating two similar methods in a superclass. New functionality is generally added after refactoring.

Applying a pattern to existing code combines refactoring with adding new functionality to improve the design of existing code. When applying a pattern, a software

developer follows published instructions for generating the known pattern, but manually ascertains what elements of the preexisting code need to be modified or deleted (i.e., refactoring) as well as what elements of the pattern need to be added (i.e., additional functionality) to implement the pattern. Conventional software development tools do not provide support for applying a pattern to existing code. The developer also may deem a portion of the existing code as an undesirable or bad pattern that needs to be redesigned. Faced with the problem of redesigning a bad pattern, the developer typically surveys the existing code to detect any instances of the bad pattern and then manually applies a selected pattern to transform the code for each instance of the bad pattern. Conventional software development tools lack the capability to address these problems.

Finally, software developers often produce reliable and proven program code segments that can be shared between projects and with other developers. Typically, the software developers need to document and advertise the use of this proven program code segment to propagate its continued use. In such cases, the software developer takes the manual steps to copy and paste the proven program code segment into a new project. Conventional software tools lack the ability to assist in automating and publicizing the available patterns/code segments. Thus, there is a need in the art for a tool that avoids the foregoing limitations of conventional software development tools.

Summary Of The Invention

Methods and systems consistent with the present invention provide an improved software development tool that overcomes the limitations of conventional software development tools. The improved software development tool generates a pattern instance to offer a tailored and documented pre-emptive solution to a common software design problem, applies a pattern to a portion of existing code to improve the design of existing code, and defines a user pattern from existing code to provide a developer with the capability to capture a proven pattern for reuse. Patterns that are generated or applied have pattern information embedded in an associated comment by the improved software development tool to allow these patterns to easily be detected both textually and through the graphical diagrams to facilitate communicating the pattern's existence and for future design improvements.

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In accordance with methods and systems consistent with the present invention, a method is provided in a data processing system. The method receives an indication of a pattern, generates software code reflecting the pattern, and stores identification information for the pattern in a comment associated with the generated software code.

5 In accordance with methods and systems consistent with the present invention, a method is provided in a data processing system having a pattern. The pattern has a participant playing a role in the pattern. The method receives an indication of the software element, determines whether the software element is capable of playing the role, and when it is determined that the software element is capable of playing the role, designates that the
10 software element plays the role in the pattern.

In accordance with methods and systems consistent with the present invention, a method is provided in a data processing system. The method displays a plurality of software elements to a user, receives an indication of a selected one of the plurality of software elements, receives an indication of a user-defined pattern role that the selected software
15 element plays in a pattern, and stores the plurality of software elements as the pattern.

In accordance with methods and systems consistent with the present invention, a method is provided in a data processing system having source code. The method detects a first pattern in the source code, and replaces the first pattern with a second pattern that is different than the first pattern.

20 Additional implementations are directed to systems and computer devices incorporating the methods described above. It is also to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the detailed description to follow are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

25 The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate an implementation of the invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the advantages and principles of the invention. In the drawings,

Fig. 1 depicts a block diagram of a data processing system suitable for practicing methods and systems consistent with the present invention;

Fig. 2 depicts a flow chart illustrating an exemplary process performed by the software development tool in Fig. 1 for generating a pattern instance;

Fig. 3 depicts an exemplary GUI screen for initiating the generation of a pattern and for showing both a graphical and a textual view of the pattern instance generated by the software development tool in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 depicts an exemplary screen showing a list of pattern options that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may generate based on a class element type and showing configurable properties and parameters that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may use to generate the selected pattern;

Fig. 5 depicts an exemplary screen showing other configurable properties and parameters that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may use to generate an adapter pattern;

Fig. 6 depicts another exemplary screen showing other configurable properties and parameters that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may use to generate a Java Bean pattern;

Fig. 7 depicts an exemplary screen showing a request by the software development tool in Fig. 1 to provide a special pattern property in order to generate a specific pattern;

Fig. 8 depicts an exemplary screen showing an example response from the software development tool in Fig. 1 after determining that a selected pattern with a variation based on a change to configurable properties or parameters may not be applied to the selected element;

Fig. 9 depicts an exemplary screen showing the source code generated by the software development tool in Fig. 1 in response to the selected Singleton pattern of Fig. 4 with the variation that Singleton and Singleton Factory properties have the same value;

Fig. 10 depicts an exemplary screen showing the source code for the Singleton class generated by the software development tool in Fig. 1 in response to the selected Singleton pattern of Fig. 4 with the variation that Singleton and Singleton Factory properties do not have the same value;

Fig. 11 depicts an exemplary screen showing the source code for the Singleton Factory class generated by the software development tool in Fig. 1 in response to the selected Singleton pattern of Fig. 4 with the variation that Singleton and Singleton Factory properties do not have the same value;

Fig. 12 depicts an exemplary GUI screen for initiating the generation of a link pattern and for identifying the two nodes between which the software development tool in Fig. 1 will generate a selected link pattern;

Fig. 13 depicts an exemplary screen showing a list of pattern options that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may generate based on a link element type, and showing configurable properties and parameters that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may use to generate the selected pattern;

Fig. 14 depicts an exemplary screen showing the source code generated by the software development tool in Fig. 1 in response to the selected pattern of Fig. 13;

Fig. 15a depicts a flow chart illustrating an exemplary process performed by the software development tool in Fig. 1 for applying a pattern to a portion of existing code;

Fig. 15b depicts a flow chart illustrating an exemplary process performed by the software development tool in Fig. 1 for applying a pattern to a portion of existing code;

Fig. 16 depicts an exemplary screen showing a selected class element within a portion of existing code prior to the software development tool in Fig. 1 applying a selected pattern to transform the portion;

Fig. 17 depicts an exemplary screen showing a list of pattern options that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may apply to the selected class element in Fig. 16, showing configurable properties and parameters that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may use to apply the selected pattern, and showing a suggested pattern role for the selected class element;

Fig. 18 depicts an exemplary screen showing a first portion of the transformed source code and its corresponding graphical representation generated by the software development tool in Fig. 1 in response to applying a variation of the selected Singleton pattern to the selected class element in Fig. 16;

Fig. 19 depicts an exemplary screen showing a second portion of the transformed source code and its corresponding graphical representation generated by the software development tool in Fig. 1 in response to applying a variation of the selected Singleton pattern to the selected class element in Fig. 16;

Fig. 20 depicts an exemplary screen showing another variation in the configurable properties and parameters that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may use to apply the selected Singleton pattern;

Fig. 21 depicts an exemplary screen showing the transformed source code for one Singleton pattern participant generated by the software development tool in Fig. 1 in response to applying another variation of the selected Singleton pattern shown on screen 1900 in Fig. 19 to the selected class element in Fig. 16;

5 Fig. 22 depicts an exemplary screen showing the transformed source code for a second Singleton pattern participant generated by the software development tool in Fig. 1 in response to applying another variation of the selected Singleton pattern to the selected class element in Fig. 16;

10 Fig. 23 depicts an exemplary screen showing configurable properties and parameters that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may use to apply an Observer pattern to the selected class element in Fig. 16, and showing a suggested pattern role for the selected class element;

15 Fig. 24 depicts an exemplary screen showing a list of pattern options that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may apply to a selected link element in Fig. 16 and showing configurable properties and parameters that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may use to apply the selected pattern;

Fig. 25 depicts a flow chart illustrating an exemplary process performed by the software development tool in Fig. 1 for capturing a user-defined pattern from existing code;

20 Fig. 26 depicts an exemplary dialog box that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may use to display a user identified pattern participant and to receive a role to be assigned to the identified pattern participant;

Fig. 27 depicts an exemplary dialog box that the software development tool in Fig. 1 may use to display a user identified pattern participant and to receive a role to be assigned to the identified pattern participant;

25 Fig. 28 depicts a data structure of the language-neutral representation created by the software development tool in Fig. 1;

Fig. 29 depicts representative source code;

Fig. 30 depicts the data structure of the language-neutral representation of the source code of Fig. 29; and

30 Fig. 31 depicts a flow chart illustrating an exemplary process performed by the software development tool in Fig. 1 to produce pattern code.

Reference will now be made in detail to the description of the invention as illustrated in the drawings. While the invention will be described in connection with these drawings, there is no intent to limit it to the embodiment or embodiments disclosed therein. On the contrary, the intent is to cover all alternatives, modifications, and equivalents included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

Detailed Description Of The Invention

Methods and systems consistent with the present invention provide an improved software development tool that generates a pattern instance, that applies a pattern to a portion of existing code to improve the design of the existing code, and that can be used to create a new pattern from existing code. The improved software development tool saves development time and expense while promoting better design practices by allowing a developer to automatically generate a pattern on command and to automatically apply the pattern to existing code to improve the design of the code. Thus, this system enables the developer to avoid having to interpret and manually implement the pattern provided in a book, and to avoid the risk of incorrectly implementing the pattern. Furthermore, the improved software development tool enables a programmer to capture a good design and make it into a reusable pattern.

Patterns allow software developers to implement sound engineering architecture and design for resolving common, recurring problems encountered throughout all of software development. Through the use of pattern generation in accordance with methods and systems consistent with the present invention, a developer can organize, document, and produce more maintainable software. In addition, a developer can manually or automatically detect an undesirable pattern and transform the undesirable pattern into a desirable one.

Implementation Details

Fig. 1 depicts a data processing system 100 suitable for practicing methods and systems consistent with the present invention. Data processing system 100 includes a memory 102, a secondary storage device 104, an I/O device 106, and a processor 108. Memory 102 includes a software development tool 110 for generating, applying, and

defining a pattern for a software project 112, which is stored in the secondary storage device 104. The software project 112 comprises source code in at least one file which, when compiled, forms a sequence of instructions to be run by the processor 108. Software development tool 110 also includes a transient meta model (TMM) 114 that is generated by the software development tool to store a language-neutral representation of the source code for the software project 112. Software development tool 110 further includes a plurality of pattern program modules 116 that contain instructions that the software development tool performs to generate or apply a respective pattern as described herein. One skilled in the art will recognize that data processing system 100 may contain additional or different components.

Although aspects of the present invention are described as being stored in memory, one skilled in the art will appreciate that these aspects can also be stored on or read from other types of computer-readable media, such as secondary storage devices (e.g., hard disks, floppy disks, or CD-ROM); a carrier wave from a network, such as the Internet; or other forms of RAM or ROM either currently known or later developed.

Generating a Pattern Instance

To generate a pattern instance, the software development tool 110 supports the definition of a pattern using programming language statements or instructions that are encapsulated in a program module for each pattern. The programming language may be any object-oriented programming language, such as the Java™ programming language or C++. The program module may be a class that is compiled with the software development tool 110. Alternatively, the program module may be a script file, which is well known in the art. The script file will be interpreted by the software development tool at runtime. For the software development tool to generate a pattern instance or apply a pattern to existing code as described below, each pattern implements methods 2710 defined in a Source Code Interface (SCI) pattern interface 2700 shown in Fig. 27. As described herein, the software development tool performs the apply method 2718 for a pattern to invoke the transient meta model (TMM) to create or change source code corresponding to the pattern in a software project 112.

list of pattern options 402 that are applicable to generating a pattern based on class element type 302 is shown in Fig. 4. Examples of the well-known pattern options that may be applied to a class are also identified in Table 1 and Table 2 below with their respective definitions.

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Pattern Name	Pattern Description	Pattern Participant & Role
Abstract Factory	<p>Provides an interface for creating families of related or dependent objects without specifying their specific classes.</p> <p>Use abstract factory pattern when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a system should be independent of how its products are created, composed, and represented. a system should be configured with one of multiple families of products. a family of related product objects is designed to be used together, and you need to enforce their constraint. you want to provide a class library of products, and you want to reveal just their interfaces, not their implementations. 	<p>Abstract factory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> declares an interface for operations that create Abstract product objects. this participant cannot be read-only. <p>Abstract product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> declares an interface for a type of Product object. <p>Concrete factory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implements the operations to create Concrete product objects. this participant cannot be read-only. this participant cannot be an interface. <p>Concrete product</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> defines a product object to be created by the corresponding concrete factory. implements the Abstract product interface. this participant cannot be read-only. this participant cannot be an interface.
Adapter pattern	<p>Convert the interface of a class into another interface client expects. Adapter lets classes work together that couldn't otherwise because of incompatible interfaces.</p> <p>There are two variations of the adapter pattern: object adapter</p>	<p>Target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> defines the domain-specific interface. This participant cannot be a class if the class adapter (see below) version is chosen. <p>Adaptee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> defines an existing interface that needs adapting.

	too (for example, a product and its two roles, "product in a sales process" and "product in use").	
Class Stub implementation pattern	This useful pattern can be applied to a class in order to create stubs for all the methods found in interfaces (and their parent interfaces) this class implements. If a class extends another class, then this pattern creates stubs for all the constructors found in the superclass. These constructor stubs simply call the corresponding constructors in the superclass.	

Table 2 – Additional Patterns To Be Applied To A Class

The software development tool also provides an option to display all pattern options prior to receiving a selected element type. After a pattern selection is made in this implementation, the software development tool may prompt the developer for information regarding the element type necessary to implement an instance of the selected pattern for the developer's current software development project, i.e., to generate the corresponding code.

The software development tool receives a pattern selected by the developer 206. Based on the pattern selected by the developer, the software development tool determines whether the pattern has configurable features (step 208) and, if so, displays them for the developer to complete or modify (step 210). A configurable feature defines a variation of the pattern. A configurable feature is a property or a parameter of the pattern that a developer can modify or select to tailor the pattern that is created. A configurable property may be an identification of a role for a pattern participant, or an attribute or method associated with a pattern participant. To adhere to the definition of the selected pattern, the software development tool uses default entries for configurable properties to complete or generate the pattern instance when the developer does not provide any modifications. Parameter options control whether a feature of a selected pattern definition is to be applied in generating the selected pattern instance as explained below.

As depicted in Fig. 4, in response to the selection of a Singleton pattern 404, the exemplary parameterization dialog box 405 displays configurable properties 410 and parameters 420. Singleton configurable properties 410 include: a name for a Singleton class 411 to be generated, a name for a Singleton factory 412 which has a static method to instantiate Singleton (this property causes a variation in how the Singleton pattern is applied, as explained below), the name of the unique instance attribute or variable 413 that refers to the one instance of the class to be utilized by other objects, and the name of the instance method or operation 414 to access and return a reference to the unique instance attribute 413 (e.g., returns a reference to Singleton object for this example). One skilled in the art will appreciate that configurable properties 410 correspond to various elements used for generating the selected pattern.

Singleton parameters 420 include “Generate thread safe code” option 421, and “Create pattern links” option 422. “Generate thread safe code” option 421, when selected, ensures that the pattern (e.g., Singleton) object behaves correctly in a multi-threaded environment by using a synchronized block in the instance method 414. A thread is a path of execution, and a program may have more than one thread. A synchronized block is a Java construct that prevents a simultaneous access of a block of code by multiple threads. The “Create pattern links” option 422, when selected, generates pattern information (e.g., see Fig. 9, Singleton pattern information 912), such as dependency links that identify relationships between classes and interfaces participating in the pattern. Pattern information is embedded in a comment field associated with a respective pattern element or participant so that a pattern instance can later be easily identified in the corresponding source code. Embedding pattern information will be further described below.

Other parameters, depicted on screen 500 in Fig. 5, which may be displayed (depending on the design of the selected pattern) include: “Copy documentation” 522, “Initialization variant” 524, and “Version” 526. Copy documentation 522 controls whether to copy comments from methods in interfaces participating in the pattern to the stubs of these methods made by the pattern in classes implementing such interfaces. Initialization variant 524 defines the kind of initialization for an attribute of a pattern participant. For example, in the previously introduced adapter pattern, the adapter class has an attribute 525 that is initialized based on a call from a “set method” or based on a “constructor parameter” for an object of the adapter depending on the selection for the Initialization variant 524.

Version 526 defines whether an object or a class variation of a selected pattern is to be generated.

Additional parameters, depicted on screen 600 in Fig. 6, which are primarily for generating a Java Bean instance include “Generate get methods” 622, “Generate set methods” 624, “Create default constructor” 626, and “Set visibility” 628. A Java Bean is a software component built using the Java™ programming language that is designed to be used in Java programs and manipulated in a Java Graphical User Interface (GUI) builder tool. In general, the software component is a self-contained group of software elements that can be controlled dynamically and assembled to form applications by the Java GUI builder tool. A Java Bean is more clearly described in Robert Englander, Developing Java Beans, O’Reilly (1997). Generate get methods 622 and Generate set methods 624 control whether to create “get” or “set” accessor methods for a specified property 612 in a Java Bean pattern. Create default constructor 626 controls whether the software development tool automatically creates a constructor to initialize an attribute or variable for the specified property. Set visibility 628 controls whether the attribute for the specified property 612 is privately accessible, protected but capable of being accessed by a subclass, locally accessible to objects in the same package, or publicly accessible. As is well known in object-oriented programming, a package is a library of classes grouped together based on common functionality, like performing I/O.

Returning to Fig. 2, after displaying the selected pattern’s configurable properties and parameters in step 210, the software development tool determines whether a special pattern property needs to be defined (step 212) and, if necessary, receives the special pattern property prior to generating the selected pattern instance (step 214). A special pattern property is a property that the software development tool expects the developer to provide because the software development tool cannot deduce a default entry. As depicted on screen 700 in Fig. 7, a special pattern property is defined for generating an abstract factory pattern instance. In this example, the special pattern property for this pattern, which the software development tool asks to be defined, is the identification of a concrete product (see message 702). The yet to be identified concrete product will implement the interface of abstract product 714 and will have its objects created by concrete factory 716. In this example, the developer is prompted on another screen for the name of an existing class

element or a new class element to be created as part of the pattern that will fulfill the role of the concrete product.

As shown in Fig. 2, if a developer makes any entries or modifications (i.e., variations from default values) to the selected pattern's configurable parameters or properties, the software development tool receives the variations (step 216) and determines whether the selected pattern with the variations can be applied to the selected element (step 218). To determine whether the variation is suitable, the software development tool checks the variation for syntax errors and for semantic errors such as a duplicate name for two properties that need to remain unique. In addition, the software development tool will check the selected pattern with the variation for completeness. For example, screen 800 illustrates that a variation of removing and not replacing the default entry or identification for the Singleton factory 412 is not permitted (see message 802). The Singleton pattern cannot be generated unless the Singleton Factory 412 property or role is supplied by the developer to complete the pattern.

As shown on screen 400 in Fig. 4, Singleton 411 and Singleton Factory 412 have the same value, which results in a single class having a method to instantiate itself only once as shown in Fig. 9. Singleton Factory 412, however, may be given a different value (e.g., the name Singleton Factory) which results in a variation in the Singleton pattern instance that is generated as illustrated in Figs. 10 and 11. Thus, each pattern has a plurality of variations based on configurable properties and parameters associated with each pattern.

If the selected pattern does not have any configurable properties, then the software development tool determines the software language in which the pattern is to be generated (step 220). For example, standard programming policy for the developer's company may fix properties for a pattern like the "stub implementation" pattern. When a selected pattern instance is to be applied to a new project, the software development tool references a language variable associated with the new project to identify the default software language to use in generating the selected pattern instance. For instance, the language variable may identify the software language to be the Java™ programming language or C++. Similarly, the software development tool references a path variable associated with the new project to identify the location to store the new pattern instance (step 221). In one implementation, both the language variable and path variable may be accessed and modified by a developer.

code 1102 for Singleton Factory class 1106. The class diagrams 1022 and 1024 graphically reflect the generation of the selected Singleton pattern with this variation.

Finally, as previously mentioned, pattern identification information is retained automatically by storing the identification information for the selected pattern in a comment associated with the generated software code based on the selected pattern (step 224). Returning to Figs. 9 and 10, the pattern identification information 912 and 1012 identify the pattern, the role of a supplier of the class instance (Singleton Factory), and the name of the supplier participant playing the role (Singleton in Fig. 9, and Singleton Factory in Fig. 10).

Because the pattern information is embedded in source code comments, documentation generation and future modifications or improvements to a program for a project can be facilitated as the pattern within the code is made recognizable. As explained below, the software development tool can automatically detect undesirable code and transform it to improved code corresponding to a selected pattern. By embedding pattern information in source code comments, the generated pattern can later be identified as undesirable code, which can be easily located from among all other code in a program.

For example, a developer may utilize a Singleton pattern to ensure that only one instance of a class is created when the code for a particular project is compiled and executed. While this may have been a good design decision at the time, there may be reasons to improve the design, like improving the performance of the code which lead the developer to identify the Singleton as a bad pattern for the code. Applying another pattern or an improved version of the Singleton pattern to replace the originally generated pattern is supported by the software development tool as explained in context with "Applying A Pattern To Existing Code," below.

The software development tool is not limited to generating a pattern based on a selected class element type. For example, screen 1200 in Fig. 12 depicts an exemplary GUI screen for initiating the generation of a link pattern and for identifying the two nodes (a node may be a class or an interface) between which the software development tool will generate a selected link pattern. In this implementation, the software development tool receives a link element type and is prompted to generate a pattern for the selected element type based on the actuation of a respective radio button 1202 and by the identification of the node 1210, SingletonFactory class, and the node 1220, Class1.

To generate a link pattern, the software development tool 110 performs the process steps shown in Fig. 2 and described above. Fig. 13 depicts a screen 1300 that shows an exemplary list of pattern options 1302 that the software development tool may generate based on a link element type, and the configurable properties 1311 and 1312 that the software development tool may use to generate the selected “Association as Vector” link pattern 1304. Screen 1400 in Fig. 14 depicts an exemplary screen showing the source code 1402 generated by the software development tool in response to the selected “Association as Vector” pattern of Fig. 13. As illustrated in Fig. 14, the software development tool embeds pattern information 1404 in a comment associated with the source code 1402, which as mentioned advantageously supports documentation of the project and later detection of the pattern in the code.

Applying a Pattern To Existing Code

Applying a pattern to existing code involves generating a pattern instance that replaces in whole or in part a portion of software code for a project, while not altering the external behavior of the remaining software code. Thus, applying a pattern extends the concept of refactoring to improve the design of software after the design has already been coded or written. By utilizing the software development tool to apply a pattern to existing software as described below, a problem in existing software code can be reworked to conform to a solution described with respect to the pattern definition.

Figs. 15a and 15b depict a flow diagram of an exemplary process that the software development tool performs to apply a pattern to existing code. Initially, the software development tool receives an indication of a selected element within the existing code that is to be transformed as a result of applying the pattern (step 1502). The selected element can be a class, a link, or any known object-oriented component (e.g., method or attribute) that may be a participant or identify a relationship in a pattern to be applied.

In one implementation, the software development tool receives the indication of the selected element in response to a developer selecting the graphical notation of the selected element in the graphical editor pane 304. In the example depicted in Fig. 16, screen 1600 shows that the diagram 1602 corresponding to the “CashSaleDetail” class element has been selected. The “CashSaleDetail” class element is a portion of the existing code for a

CashSales project 112 that has been read into the TMM 114 data structure 2800 and that is represented graphically by “CashSale” class symbol 1620, “IMakeCashSale” interface symbol 1630, “ProductDesc” class symbol 1640, “ProductPrice” class symbol 1650, and “InsuffPaymentException” class symbol 1660. While the “CashSaleDetail” class element is not in view on source code editor pane 306, the constructor method element “CashSaleDetail(ProductDesc prod)” 1602 which is a defined operation within the “CashSaleDetail” class is in view on the source code editor pane 306, indicating that “CashSaleDetail” class element has been selected. The software development tool may also receive the indication of the selected element to apply a pattern in response to the developer identifying the selected element in the source code editor pane 306.

As shown in Fig. 15a, the software development tool also receives from the developer an indication that a pattern is to be applied to the selected element (step 1504). The indication to apply a pattern to the selected element may be conveyed in response to the developer choosing a respective option from a pull-down menu or from a speed menu that appears when a button on a mouse is actuated while an associated cursor is over the selected element. One skilled in the art will appreciate that any known programming technique for inputting data could be used to convey the same information (i.e., the selected element and the indication to apply a pattern) to the software development tool.

In response to receiving the indication of the selected element and the indication to apply a pattern, the software development tool determines the suitable patterns that may be applied to the selected element (step 1506). The software development tool determines which patterns are suitable based on the type of selected element, such as a class as opposed to a link or a member. To determine suitability, the software development tool checks if a participant in a respective pattern uses the type of selected element. The example shown in Fig. 17 indicates that the Singleton option 1702 has been selected. This corresponds to the software development tool identifying that a Singleton pattern uses an element of type “class.” To further illustrate the software development tool analysis of whether a pattern is suitable for applying to a selected element assume that the developer had actually chosen the “IMakeCashSale” interface symbol 1630 as the selected element to apply a pattern. In this example, the software development tool determines that the Singleton pattern uses a class participant that has a static variable that refers to the one instance that is created for the class. The method for creating the one instance of a Singleton and the variable that then

refers to the one instance of the class may be delegated to a SingletonFactory class but not an interface. Therefore, the software development tool determines that a Singleton pattern cannot be applied to the selected interface element and the Singleton pattern would not be listed as an option in this example. One skilled in the art will appreciate that a similar analysis could be performed for any pre-defined pattern that has known participants with known roles as previously described.

The software development tool then displays the suitable patterns from which the developer can choose (step 1508). Fig. 17 depicts an exemplary screen 1700 that shows a list of pattern options 1704 that the software development tool may apply based on the selected element CashSaleDetail being a class element type. Example pattern options that may be applied to a class are reflected in the list 1704 with their respective descriptions, and are presented in Table 1 herein. Similarly, Fig. 24 depicts an exemplary screen 2400 that shows a list of pattern options 2404 that the software development tool may apply to the selected element 1670 between CashSaleDetail 1610 and ProductDesc 1640, which are of the link element type.

The software development tool next receives an indication of a selected pattern option (step 1510) from among the pattern options displayed, and determines whether the associated selected pattern has more than one participant (step 1514). In the event that the selected pattern has more than one participant related to an additional element, the software development tool performs a heuristic to determine whether there is another related element in the existing code that is suited to be the additional element, i.e., that is suited to play the role associated with the different pattern participant (step 1516). To determine whether another related element is suited to play the different role in the selected pattern, the software development tool performs the heuristic of locating pattern identification information in a comment associated with the selected element 1610 or associated with other related elements 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, or 1660. As shown in Fig. 21, identification information 2110 identifies the construct for the related class element "CashSaleDetailFactory" in the comment associated with a Singleton pattern. In this example, the software development tool then knows to search within the existing code for a class element with the name "CashSaleDetailFactory" that may already be suited for playing the role of Singleton Factory.

The software development tool may also utilize a heuristic that combines checking the existing code for common pattern naming conventions of pattern participants (e.g., a class having a name which is or includes "Singleton Factory") with searching the existing code for constructs in other related elements that show the implementation of pattern properties and pattern functions that reflect the role of the different pattern participant. For example, when applying the Singleton pattern, the software development tool will look in the existing code for a class element that has the Singleton pattern attribute of "instance" matched with a "get" function having the same return type of instance. Both are found in the CashSalesDetailFactory class element 2202. Thus, the software development tool would have identified this class to fulfill the different role for the Singleton pattern.

In the event the software development tool does not identify another element that is suitable to play a role of the different pattern participant, the software development tool provides a missing participant needed to complete the selected pattern option (step 1518). After providing the missing participants, or if the pattern does not have more than one participant, the software development tool 110 displays the pattern participants (e.g., 1715 and 1716) and their roles (e.g., 1711 and 1712, respectively) (step 1520). Providing a missing participant includes adding a new software element to the existing code, as explained below in relation to Figs. 21 and 22.

In addition to displaying the pattern participants and their roles in step 1520, the software development tool also displays a recommended role 1730 for the selected element based on the pattern and the other related elements that were found to be suitable to play a role in the pattern as described above. Because the Singleton pattern can be implemented with only one class, the example depicted in Fig. 17 shows that the selected element (CashSaleDetail class) is assigned the roles of both Singleton 1711 and Singleton Factory 1712. The example depicted on screen 2300 in Fig. 23 shows that the software development tool will provide a recommendation (e.g., subject 2302) for the role of the selected element in a pattern that necessarily has multiple participants (e.g., observer participants 2310) as well, such as for the Observer pattern (a pattern that specifies that an Observer object be notified of a state change of a Subject object).

The software development tool also determines whether the selected pattern has configurable features (step 1522) and displays them (step 1524) for a developer to change in order to vary the application of the pattern as described previously for generating a pattern

instance. Configurable features for a pattern include configurable properties 1710 and parameters 1720. As shown in Fig. 17, a role for a pattern participant is a property of the pattern so the software development tool allows roles (e.g., Singleton 1711 and Singleton factory 1712) to be reassigned by the developer to related elements in the existing code.

- 5 Upon receiving a variation to configurable properties 1710 (including participants and roles) and parameters 1720 (step 1526), the software development tool checks the variation for syntax and semantic errors based on the selected pattern (step 1528), and determines whether the selected pattern with the variation can be applied (e.g., can't enter the name of an interface to be assigned the role of Singleton 1711 or Singleton factory 1712 as previously discussed) (step 1530).

- 10 If the selected pattern can be applied, the software development tool determines the software language in which the pattern is to be generated (step 1532) and the location where the transformed source code is to be stored (step 1533). Because the software development tool is applying a pattern to existing software code, the software development tool references the extension of the filename associated with the existing software code to be modified to ascertain the language for applying the selected pattern. For example, Java™ code will have a ".java" extension and C++ code will have a ".cpp" extension. The software development tool may also perform these steps in the same manner as previously described for generating a pattern instance by referencing project variables for language in use and for path to store a software code file.

- 20 Once the software language is determined, the software development tool transforms the portion of existing software code corresponding to the selected pattern with any received variation (step 1534) and refactors the transformed source code (step 1536). To transform the portion of the existing software code, the software development tool performs the process steps depicted in Fig. 31 as previously described to invoke the TMM 114 to produce the pattern code in the project 112. Transforming the portion of existing software code generally means adding, modifying, or replacing the code in the selected element or in the other related elements that were designated as pattern participants to reflect a role played by a respective pattern participant. Code elements that are added to a participant in the pattern correspond to attributes, methods, or constructs needed to define and implement a role for the participant. Refactoring may comprise changing a reference to the selected element or

related element that have become a participant in the applied pattern to an appropriate reference within the pattern.

For example, applying the Singleton pattern variation shown in Fig. 17, the software development tool transforms the selected CashSaleDetail class by adding the attribute
5 “instance” 1802, the method “getInstance” 1902, and the construct “protected” (not shown in source code editor) that is graphically depicted as a “#” addition to the constructor for CashSaleDetail 1922. These elements are added to CashSaleDetail to prevent other objects from creating separate instances of this class. Any other class (e.g., CashSale class graphically depicted as diagram 1830) referencing the CashSaleDetail class (graphically
10 depicted as diagram 1820 on screen 1800 in Fig. 18) calls getInstance 1904 rather than construct an instance of the Singleton, CashSaleDetail, themselves. Hence, as part of applying the Singleton pattern, the software development tool searches the existing code for prior references to the CashSaleDetail class and refactors the prior reference to include a call to the getInstance 1904 method to preserve the one instance of CashSaleDetail class. The
15 pattern identification information is retained by storing the identification information for the selected pattern in a comment associated with the generated software code based on the selected pattern (step 1538).

In another example shown on screens 2000, 2100 and 2200 in Figs. 20-22, respectively, the software development tool receives a variation in the selected Singleton
20 pattern that calls for the roles of Singleton 1711 and Singleton factory 1712 to be associated with two different participants (i.e., 1715 and 2016). Based on the variation, the software development tool searches the existing code for the participant “CashSaleDetailFactory” 2016, determines that this participant is missing, and generates the source code 2202 for the missing participant 2016.

To complete the application of a pattern to a portion of existing code that includes
25 the selected element, the software development tool generates identification information 1810 and 2110 for the selected pattern 302 in a comment field associated with the existing code such that the pattern can be detected in the existing code. This facilitates the automatic detection of a bad or anti-pattern in order to apply a new pattern as the software
30 development tool can find bad pattern participants by searching the comment fields in the existing code as opposed to searching elements in the existing code for naming conventions or constructs associated with the bad pattern participants. Thus, it is contemplated that in

lieu of receiving a selected element to apply a pattern, the software development tool may receive a selected anti-pattern to automatically detect. To detect the anti-pattern, the software development tool may follow one or more detection rules or heuristics as described herein for applying a pattern to a selected element. Thus, the software development tool advantageously will support updating existing code associated with new versions of known patterns (e.g., a new implementation of the Singleton pattern), and deem the older, previously applied pattern as being “bad” and in need of replacement.

Defining A New Pattern From Existing Code

The software development tool may also be used to define and store a new pattern based on a developer’s identification of related elements within existing code. Fig. 25 depicts a flow diagram illustrating an exemplary process performed by the software development tool for capturing a user-defined pattern. As one skilled in the art will appreciate, any known programming input mechanism may be used to signal the software development tool that a developer wishes to define a pattern. As shown in Fig. 25, the software development tool receives an identification of one or more selected elements to be pattern participants in the user-defined pattern (step 2502). The developer conveys which elements in the existing code are to be included in the pattern by clicking a mouse button when an associated cursor is over one of the selected elements in the source code pane 306 or when the associated cursor is over the respective graphical notation in the graphical code pane 304. Alternatively, the developer may convey the group of elements to be included in the user-defined pattern by utilizing a known drag and drop feature of a mouse to corral the group of elements textually or graphically.

After an identification of the one or more selected elements to be pattern participants is received, the software development tool creates a copy of the one or more selected elements (step 2504). Each of the one or more selected elements has a coded name and has an associated sub-element, such as an attribute or method. The software development tool next receives an assigned role name for each selected element identified by the developer as a participant in the pattern (step 2506). Fig. 26 depicts an exemplary dialog box 2600 that the software development tool may use to display the user-identified one or more pattern participants and to receive a role name to be assigned to the identified one or more pattern

participants. The role name is indicative of the operation that the participant handles within the existing code in relation to the related elements that have been identified as participants in the pattern. The software development tool then locates within the copied portion of the existing code the coded name of each identified one or more pattern participants and
5 replaces the coded name with the respective assigned role name (step 2508). This advantageously allows any subsequent developer to easily utilize this defined pattern where appropriate based on the roles assigned to participants in the pattern.

The software development tool also receives modifications to the one or more selected elements in the copied portion of the existing code (step 2510). In this step the
10 developer may be allowed to modify or remove an operation from the one or more selected elements or identified pattern participants. Thus, sections of the copied portion of the existing code that are not essential to be preserved as part of the pattern can be removed. In addition, the software development tool may receive an indication from the developer identifying sub-elements (e.g., attributes or methods) of the one or more elements that are to
15 be configurable options in the pattern (step 2512). The software development tool may mark or enclose each configurable sub-element with a known identifier (e.g., “^subelement^”) that is not part of a construct or operator for the software language associated with the existing code. When the pattern is utilized in future software projects, the software development tool when prompted to apply the defined pattern can easily
20 identify, display, and then receive a variation to the sub-element that the developer indicated would be configurable.

The software development tool then stores the pattern (step 2514) and places the pattern name in the list of other pattern templates (step 2516). The pattern name may be one of the role names assigned by the developer or a name provided by the developer to capture
25 the purpose served by the pattern or the solution that the pattern solves.

While various embodiments of the application have been described, it will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that many more embodiments and implementations are possible that are within the scope of this invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be restricted except in light of the attached claims and their equivalents.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system having a plurality of patterns, wherein each of the plurality of patterns has an associated element type, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving an indication of an element type;

displaying a matching one of the plurality of patterns, the matching pattern having an associated element type that matches the received element type;

receiving from a user an indication of a selection of the matching pattern;

receiving an indication of a variation;

10 modifying the matching pattern based on the variation;

receiving an identification of a language; and

generating software code reflecting the modified matching pattern, wherein the software code is generated in the language.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining whether the variation is suitable for the matching pattern before modifying the matching pattern.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing identification information for the matching pattern in a comment associated with the generated software code.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating includes the steps of determining a location for storing the generated software code and storing the generated software code at the location.

5. A method in a data processing system comprising the steps of:
receiving an indication of a pattern;
receiving an indication of a variation;
modifying the pattern based on the variation; and
5 generating software code reflecting the modified pattern.
6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of determining whether the variation is suitable for the pattern before modifying the pattern.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the generating step further comprises the step of receiving an indication of a language, wherein the software code is generated in the
10 language.
8. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of storing identification information for the pattern in a comment associated with the generated software code.
9. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of generating includes the steps of determining a location for storing the generated software code and storing the generated
15 software code at the location.
10. A method in a data processing system comprising the steps of:
receiving an indication of a pattern;
generating software code reflecting the pattern; and
storing identification information for the pattern in a comment associated with the
20 generated software code.
11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a variation for the pattern; and
modifying the pattern based on the variation before generating the source code reflecting the modified pattern.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of determining whether the variation is suitable for the pattern before modifying the pattern.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the generating step further comprises the step of receiving an indication of a language, wherein the software code is generated in the language.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of generating includes the steps of determining a location for storing the generated software code and storing the generated software code at the location.

15. A method in a data processing system having a pattern, wherein the pattern has a first participant playing a first role in the pattern and a second participant playing a second role in the pattern, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication of a first of a plurality of software elements;

determining whether the first software element is capable of playing the first role;

when it is determined that the first software element is capable of playing the first role,

determining whether a second of the plurality of software elements is capable of playing the second role;

when it is determined that the second software element is capable of playing the second role,

designating that the first software element plays the first role in the pattern; and

designating that the second software element plays the second role in the pattern.

16. The method of claim 15, further including the step of, when it is determined that the second software element is not capable of playing the second role, designating that a missing participant plays the second role in the pattern.

28. A method in a data processing system comprising the steps of:
displaying a plurality of software elements to a user;
receiving an indication of a selected one of the plurality of software elements;
receiving an indication of a user-defined pattern role that the selected software
5 element plays in a pattern; and
storing the plurality of software elements as the pattern.
29. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data
processing system to perform a method, the data processing system having a plurality of
patterns, wherein each of the plurality of patterns has an associated element type, the method
10 comprising the steps of:
receiving an indication of an element type;
displaying a matching one of the plurality of patterns, the matching pattern having an
associated element type that matches the received element type;
receiving from a user an indication of a selection of the matching pattern;
15 receiving an indication of a variation;
modifying the matching pattern based on the variation;
receiving an identification of a language; and
generating software code reflecting the modified matching pattern, wherein the
software code is generated in the language.
- 20 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the method further comprises
the step of determining whether the variation is suitable for the matching pattern before
modifying the matching pattern.
31. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the method further comprises
the step of storing identification information for the matching pattern in a comment
25 associated with the generated software code.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the step of generating includes the steps of determining a location for storing the generated software code and storing the generated software code at the location.

33. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication of a pattern;
receiving an indication of a variation;
modifying the pattern based on the variation; and
generating software code reflecting the modified pattern.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the method further comprises the step of determining whether the variation is suitable for the pattern before modifying the pattern.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the generating step further comprises the step of receiving an indication of a language, wherein the software code is generated in the language.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the method further comprises the step of storing identification information for the pattern in a comment associated with the generated software code.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the step of generating includes the steps of determining a location for storing the generated software code and storing the generated software code at the location.

38. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving an indication of a pattern;
- 5 generating software code reflecting the pattern; and
- storing identification information for the pattern in a comment associated with the generated software code.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

- 10 receiving a variation for the pattern; and
- modifying the pattern based on the variation before generating the source code reflecting the modified pattern.

40. The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein the method further comprises the step of determining whether the variation is suitable for the pattern before modifying the pattern.

41. The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the generating step further comprises the step of receiving an indication of a language, wherein the software code is generated in the language.

42. The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the step of generating includes the steps of determining a location for storing the generated software code and storing the generated software code at the location.

43. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method, the data processing system having a pattern, wherein the pattern has a first participant playing a first role in the pattern and a second participant playing a second role in the pattern, the method comprising the steps of:

5 receiving an indication of a first of a plurality of software elements;
determining whether the first software element is capable of playing the first role;
when it is determined that the first software element is capable of playing the first
role,
determining whether a second of the plurality of software elements is capable
10 of playing the second role;
when it is determined that the second software element is capable of playing
the second role,
designating that the first software element plays the first role in the
pattern; and
15 designating that the second software element plays the second role in
the pattern.

44. The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the method further includes the step of, when it is determined that the second software element is not capable of playing the second role, designating that a missing participant plays the second role in the pattern.

20 45. The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the step of designating the first software element includes the steps of:

detecting a portion of the first software element; and
replacing the portion of the first software element with at least a portion of the first
participant.

46. The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving an indication of a variation for the first participant; and
modifying the first participant with the variation before the first software element is
5 designated to play the first role in the pattern.

47. The computer-readable medium of claim 46, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving an indication of a second variation for the second participant; and
modifying the second participant with the second variation before the second
10 software element is designated to play the second role of the pattern.

48. The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the method further comprises the step of storing identification information for the pattern in a comment associated with the software code.

49. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data
15 processing system to perform a method, the data processing system having a pattern, wherein the pattern has a participant playing a role in the pattern, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication of the software element;
determining whether the software element is capable of playing the role; and
20 when it is determined that the software element is capable of playing the role,
designating that the software element plays the role in the pattern.

50. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the method further includes the step of, when it is determined that the software element is not capable of playing the role, designating that a missing participant plays the role in the pattern.

51. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the step of designating includes the steps of:

detecting a portion of the software element; and

replacing the portion of the software element with at least a portion of the participant.

5

52. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

receiving an indication of a variation for the participant; and

modifying the participant with the variation before the software element is designated to play the role in the pattern.

10

53. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the method further comprises the step of storing identification information for the pattern in a comment associated with the code.

54. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the participant is one of a plurality of participants.

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57. A data processing system comprising:

a memory device further comprising a program that receives an indication of a pattern, that receives an indication of a variation, that modifies the pattern based on the variation, and that generates software code reflecting the modified pattern; and

5 a processor for running the program.

58. The data processing system of claim 57, wherein the program further determines whether the variation is suitable for the pattern before modifying the pattern.

59. The data processing system of claim 57, wherein the program receives an indication of a language and generates the software code in the language.

10 60. The data processing system of claim 57, wherein the program further stores identification information for the pattern in a comment associated with the generated software code.

15 61. The data processing system of claim 57, wherein the program determines a location for storing the generated software code and stores the generated software code at the location.

62. A data processing system comprising:

a memory device further comprising:

pattern having a participant playing a role in the pattern; and

a program that receives an indication of the software element, that determines

20 whether the software element is capable of playing the role, and when it is determined that the software element is capable of playing the role, that designates that the software element plays the role in the pattern; and

a processor for running the program.

63. The data processing system of claim 62, wherein the program, when it is determined that the software element is not capable of playing the role, designates that a missing participant plays the role in the pattern.

64. The data processing system of claim 62, wherein when designating, the program
5 detects a portion of the software element, and replaces the portion of the software element with at least a portion of the participant.

65. The data processing system of claim 62, wherein the program further receives an indication of a variation for the participant, and modifies the participant with the variation before the software element is designated to play the role in the pattern.

10 66. The data processing system of claim 62, wherein the program further stores identification information for the pattern in a comment associated with the code.

67. The data processing system of claim 62, wherein the participant is one of a plurality of participants.

68. A data processing system comprising:
15 a memory device further comprising a program that displays a plurality of software elements to a user, receives an indication of a selected one of the plurality of software elements, receives an indication of a user-defined pattern role that the selected software element plays in a pattern, and stores the plurality of software elements as the pattern; and
20 a processor for running the program.

69. A system comprising:
means for receiving an indication of a pattern;
means for generating software code reflecting the pattern; and
means for storing identification information for the pattern in a comment associated
25 with the generated software code.

70. A method in a data processing system having source code, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting in the source code a first pattern; and

replacing the first pattern with a second pattern that is different than the first pattern.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and systems consistent with the present invention provide an improved software development tool that generates a pattern, that applies a pattern to a portion of code, and that defines a user pattern from code. To generate a pattern, the software development tool receives an indication of a pattern, generates software code reflecting the pattern, and stores identification information for the pattern in a comment associated with the generated software code. To apply a pattern, the software development tool receives an indication of the software element, determines whether the software element is capable of playing the role, and when it is determined that the software element is capable of playing the role, designates that the software element plays the role in the pattern. To create a pattern, the software development tool displays a plurality of software elements to a user, receives an indication of a selected one of the plurality of software elements, receives an indication of a user-defined pattern role that the selected software element plays in a pattern, and stores the plurality of software elements as the pattern.

FIG. 1

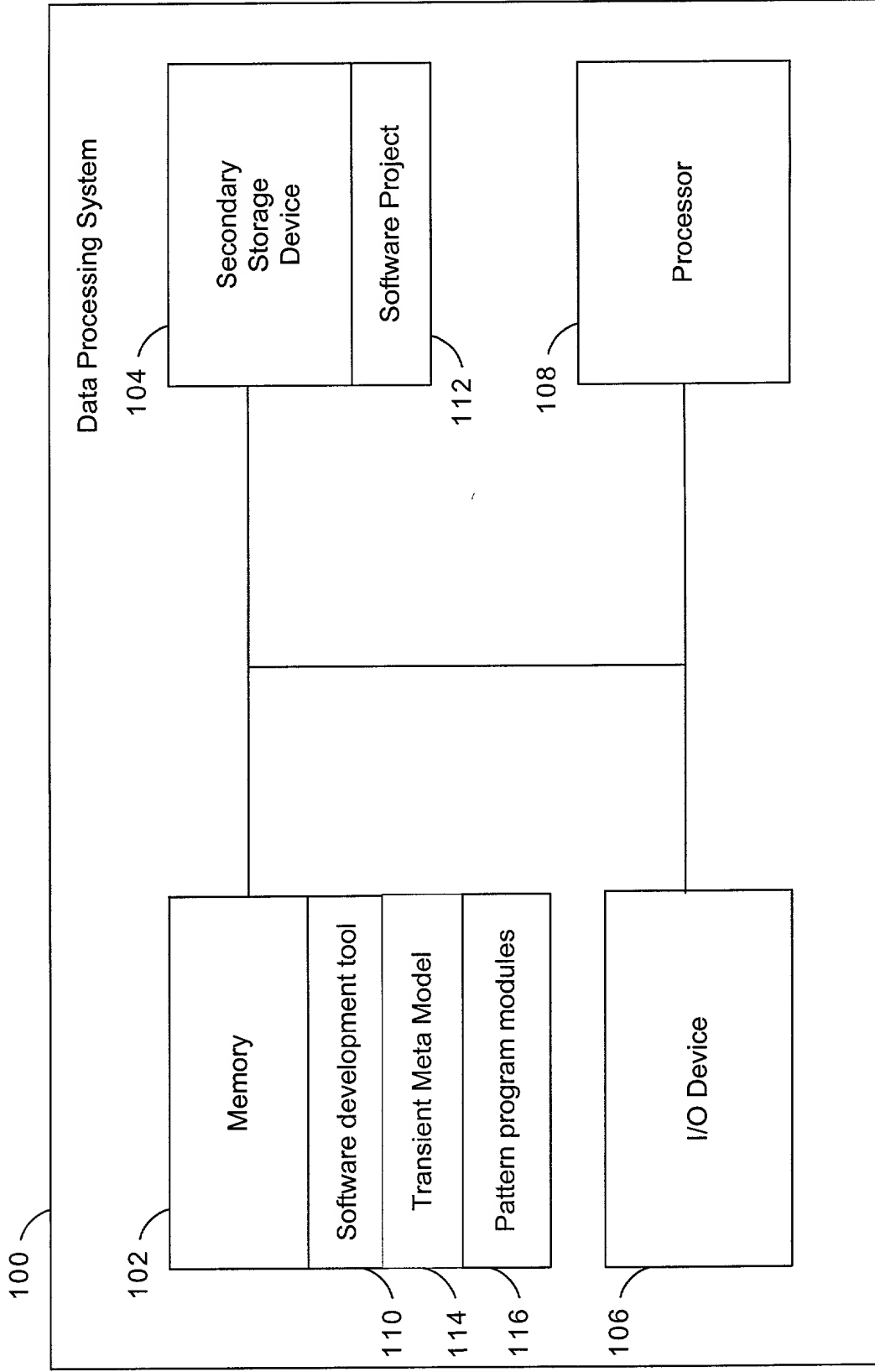


FIG. 2

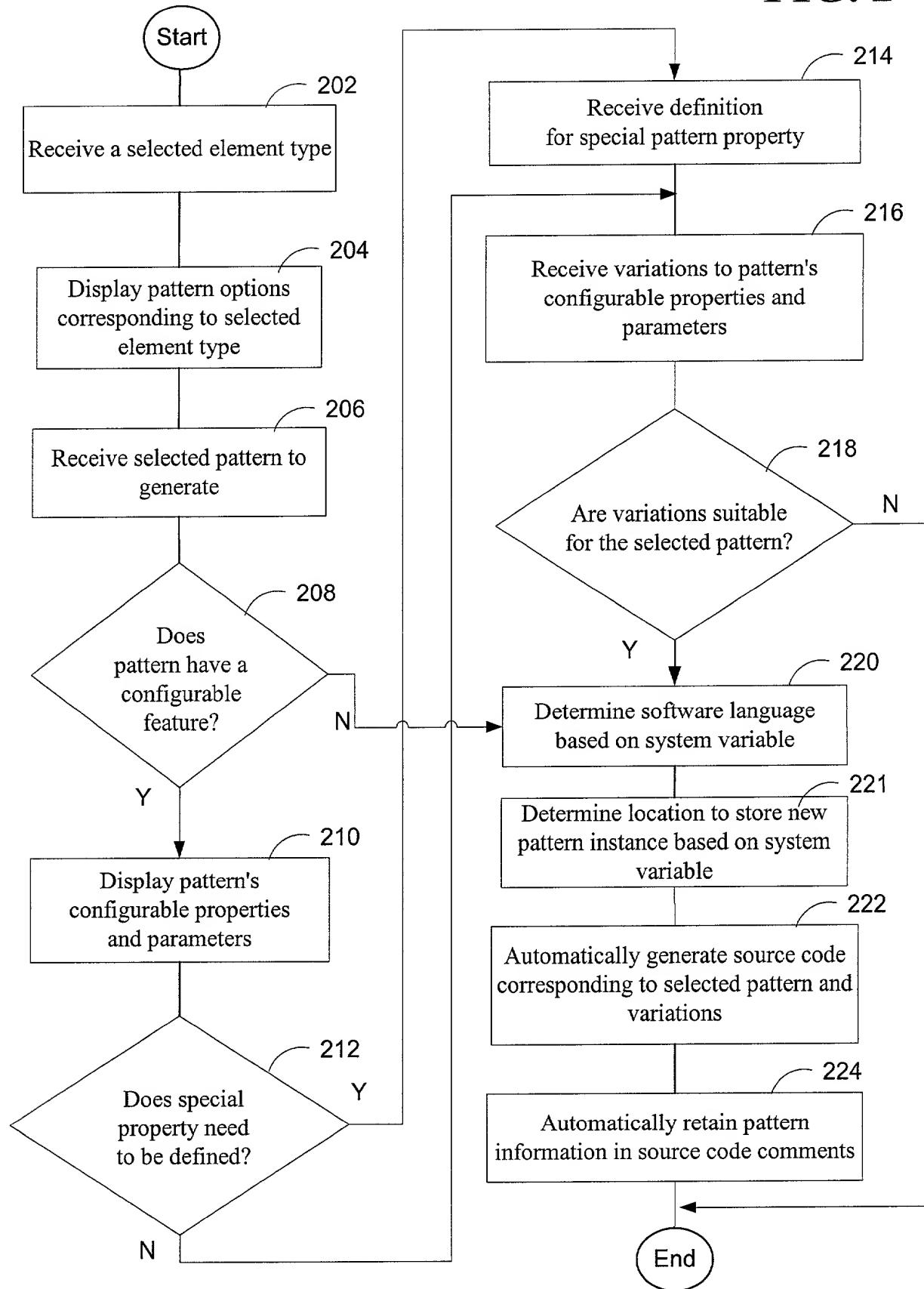


FIG. 4

400

405

Choose Pattern - Singleton - Pattern properties

Pattern

Patterns

Coard Components

HP E Speak

Coard Classes

GoF

Abstract Factory

Adapter

Chain of Responsibility

Composite

Decorator

Factory Method

Observer

Proxy

Singleton

State

Visitor

BEA WLE

Bean

JSP

402

404

Name

Value

Singleton	411	Singleton	ER
Singleton factory	412	Singleton	ER
Unique instance attribute	413	Instance	
Instance method	414	getInstance	
Generate thread safe code	421	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Create pattern links	422	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

410

420

Description

Singleton pattern

Introduction

Ensure a class only has one instance, and provide a global point of access to it.

Participants

Previous

Next

Finish

Cancel

Help

FIG. 7

700

Choose Pattern - Abstract Factory - Concrete products for ConcreteFactory

Pattern

Patterns

Coad Components

HP E Speak

Coad Classes

GoF

Abstract Factory

Adapter

Chain of Responsibility

Composite

Decorator

Factory Method

Observer

Proxy

Singleton

State

Visitor

BEA WLE

Bean

JSP

Name

Value

Abstract factory

AbstractProduct

Concrete factory

Copy documentation

Create pattern links

AbstractFactory

714

716

☐

☒

Description

Abstract Factory pattern

Introduction

Provides an interface for creating families of related or dependent objects without specifying their specific classes.

Participants

Product (AbstractProduct) for Factory (ConcreteFactory) is not defined

Previous

Next >

Cancel

Help

FIG. 11

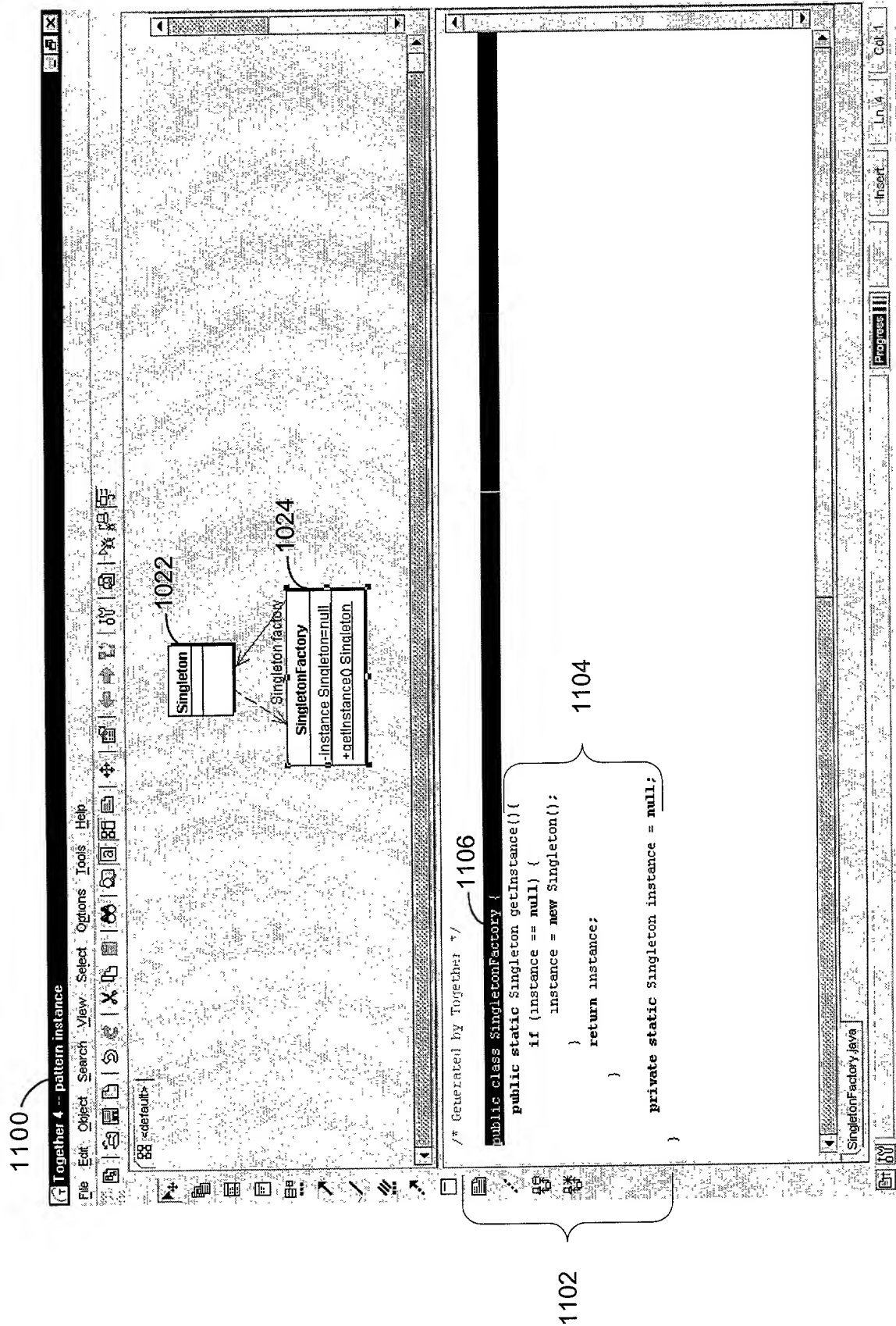


FIG. 12

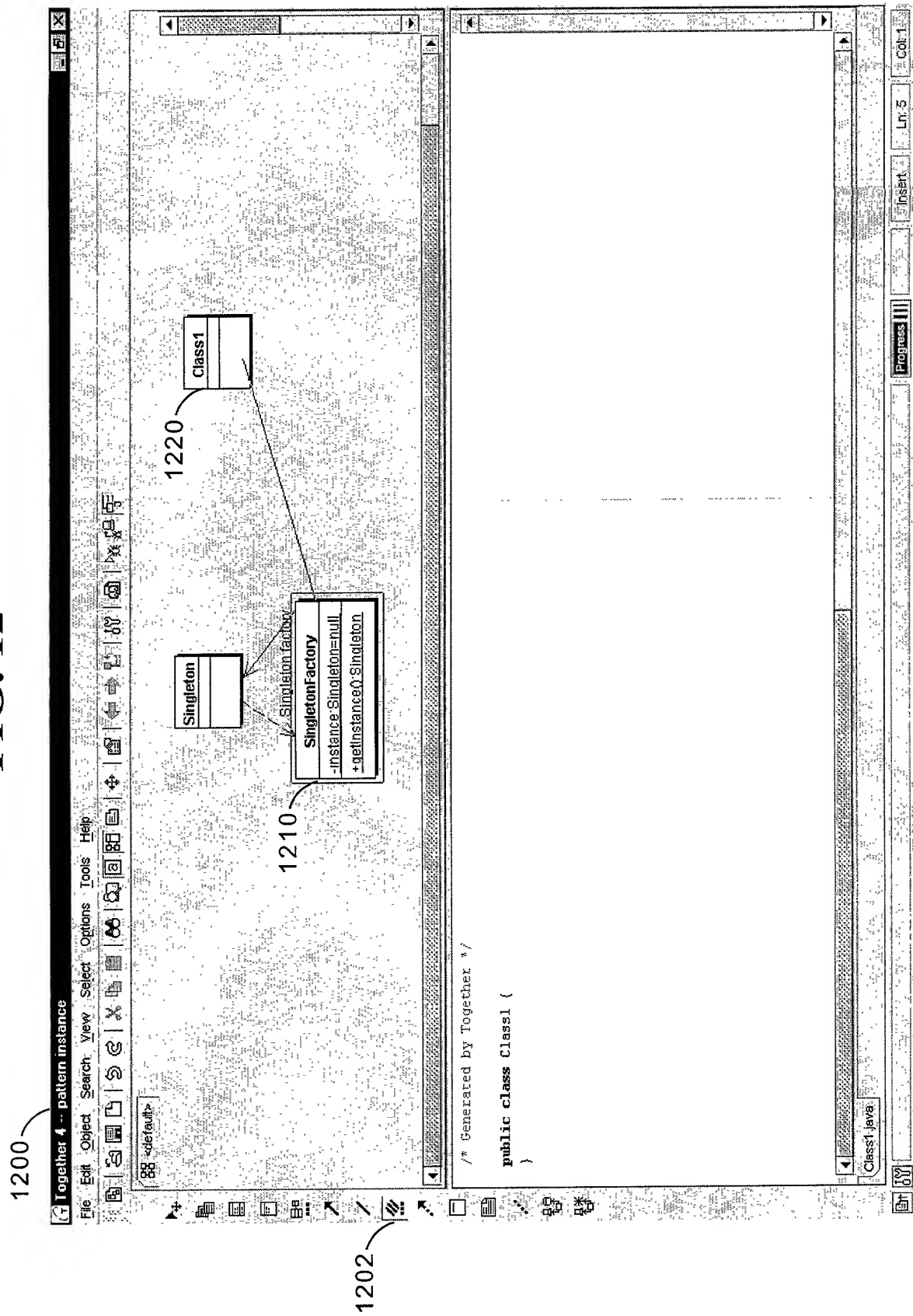


FIG. 15a

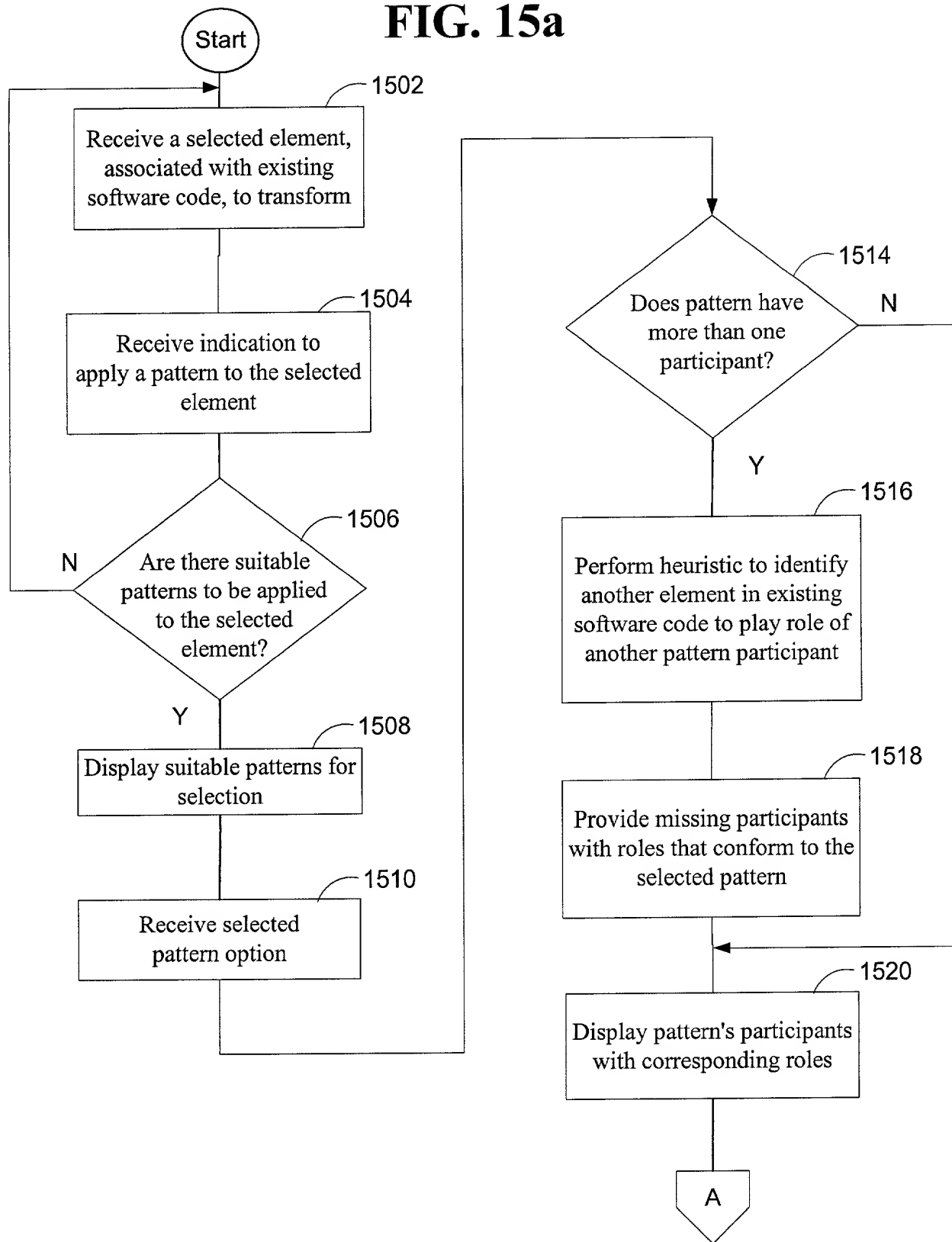


FIG. 15b

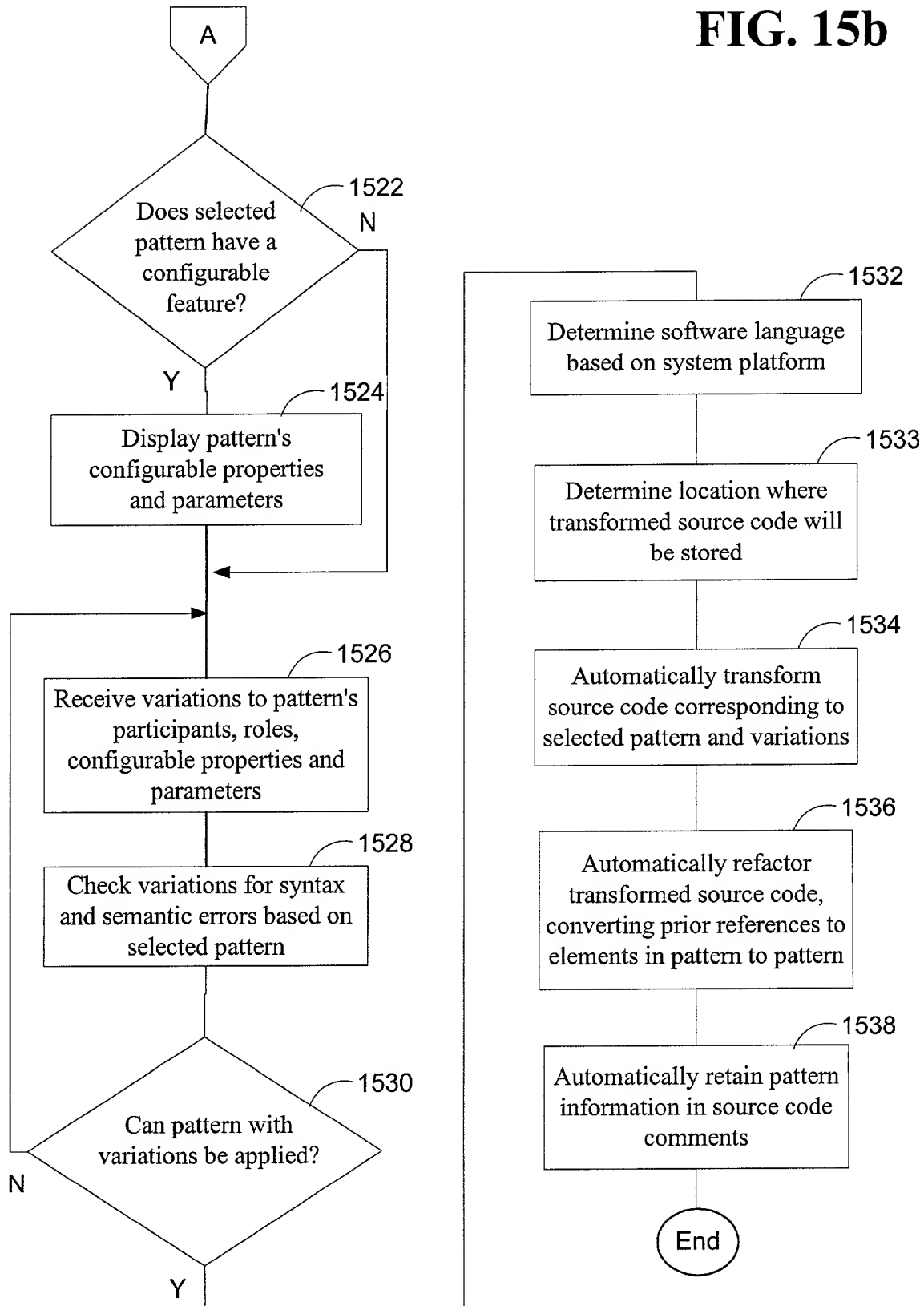


FIG. 17

1700

Choose Pattern - Singleton - Pattern properties

Pattern:

- ☒ Patterns
 - ☒ Coad Components
 - ☒ HP E Speak
 - ☒ Coad Classes
 - ☒ Gof
 - ☒ Abstract Factory
 - ☒ Adapter
 - ☒ Chain of Responsibility
 - ☒ Composite
 - ☒ Decorator
 - ☒ Factory Method
 - ☒ Observer
 - ☒ Proxy
 - ☒ Singleton
 - ☒ State
 - ☒ Visitor
 - ☒ BEA WLE
 - ☒ Bean
 - ☒ JSP
 - ☒ Stub Implementation

1702

1704

Name	Value
Use selected class as	Singleton
Singleton	1711 ProblemDomain.CashSaleDetail
Singleton factory	1712 ProblemDomain.CashSaleDetail
Unique instance attribute	instance
Instance method	getInstance
Generate thread safe code	<input type="checkbox"/>
Create pattern links	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1710

1720

Description

Singleton pattern

Introduction

Ensure a class only has one instance, and provide a global point of access to it.

Participants

< Previous

Next >

Finish

Cancel

Help

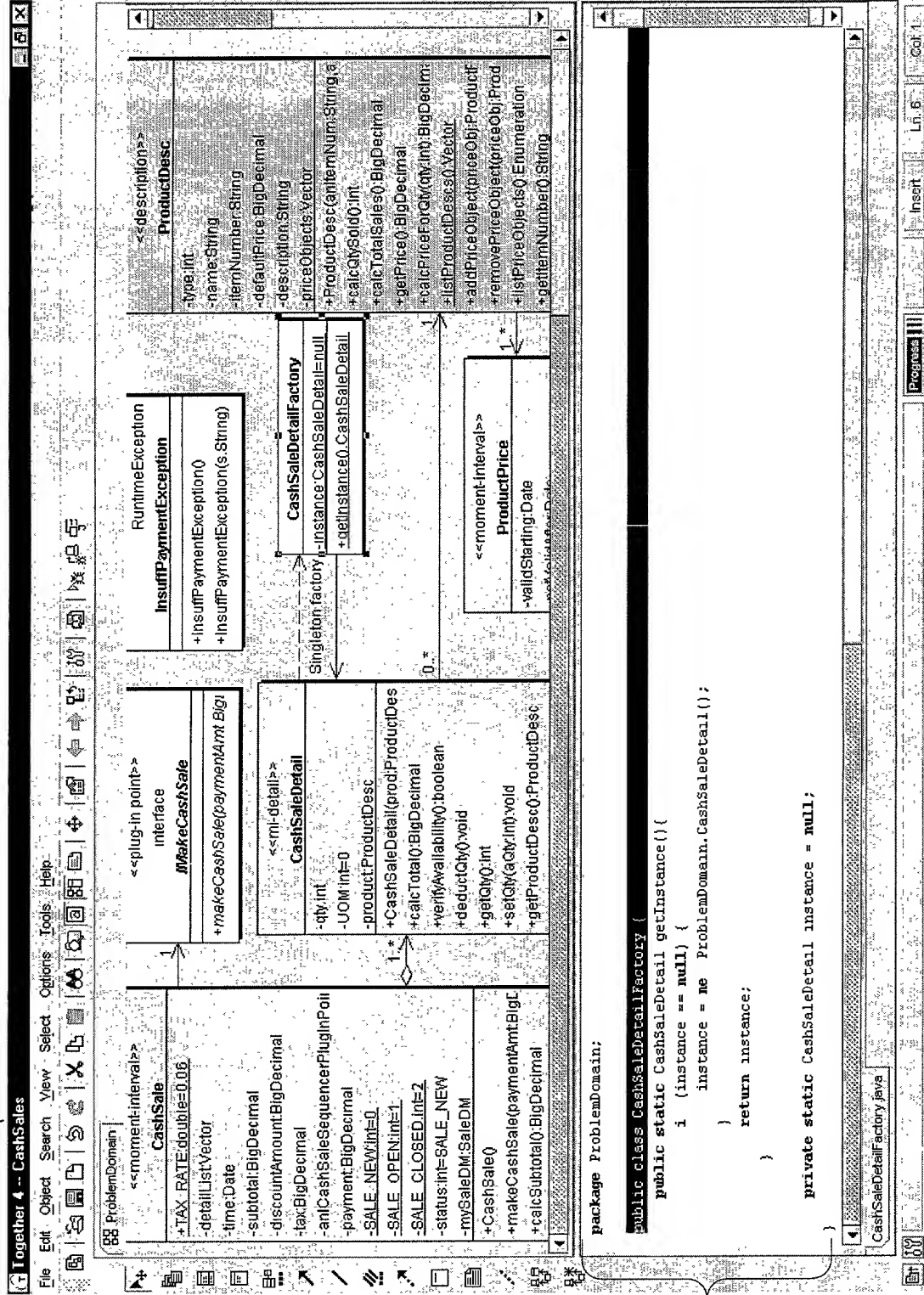


FIG. 21



FIG. 22

2200



2202

FIG. 23

2300

Choose Pattern - Observer - Pattern properties

Pattern

Patterns

Coard Components

HP E Speak

Coard Classes

GoF

Abstract Factory

Adapter

Chain of Responsibility

Composite

Decorator

Factory Method

Observer

Proxy

Singleton

State

Visitor

BEA WLE

Bean

JSP

Stub Implementation

Name

Value

2302

Use selected class as

Subject

ProblemDomain.CashSaleDetail

Observer

Observer

Concrete subjects

Concrete observers

Copy documentation

Create pattern links

Observer pattern

Introduction

Define a one-to-many dependency between objects so that when one object changes state, all its dependents are notified and updated automatically

Previous

Next

Finish

Cancel

Help

FIG. 25

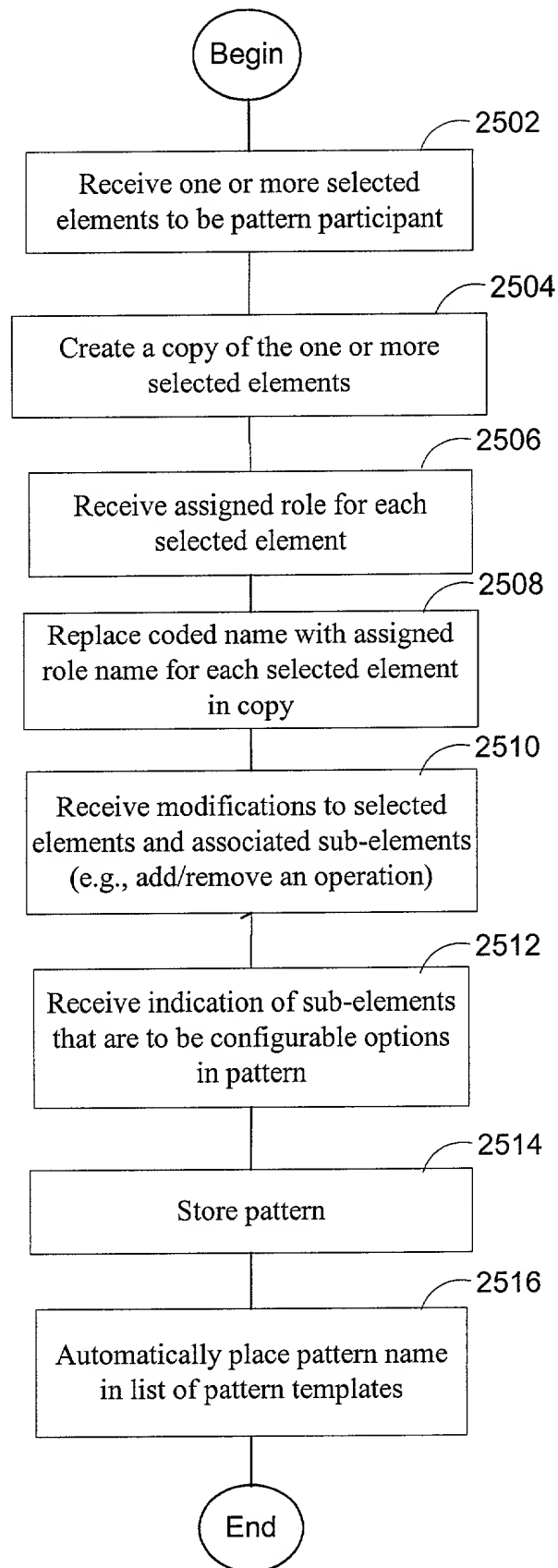
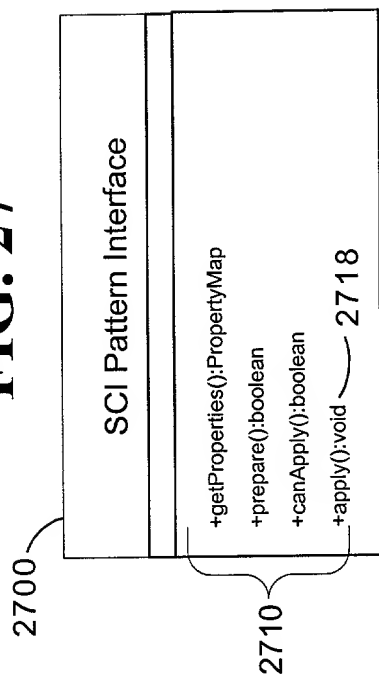


FIG. 26

2600

ASSIGNED ROLE	NAME OF PARTICIPANT
RECEIVER	CLASS_A
PROCESSOR	CLASS_B
TRANSMITTER	CLASS_C

FIG. 27



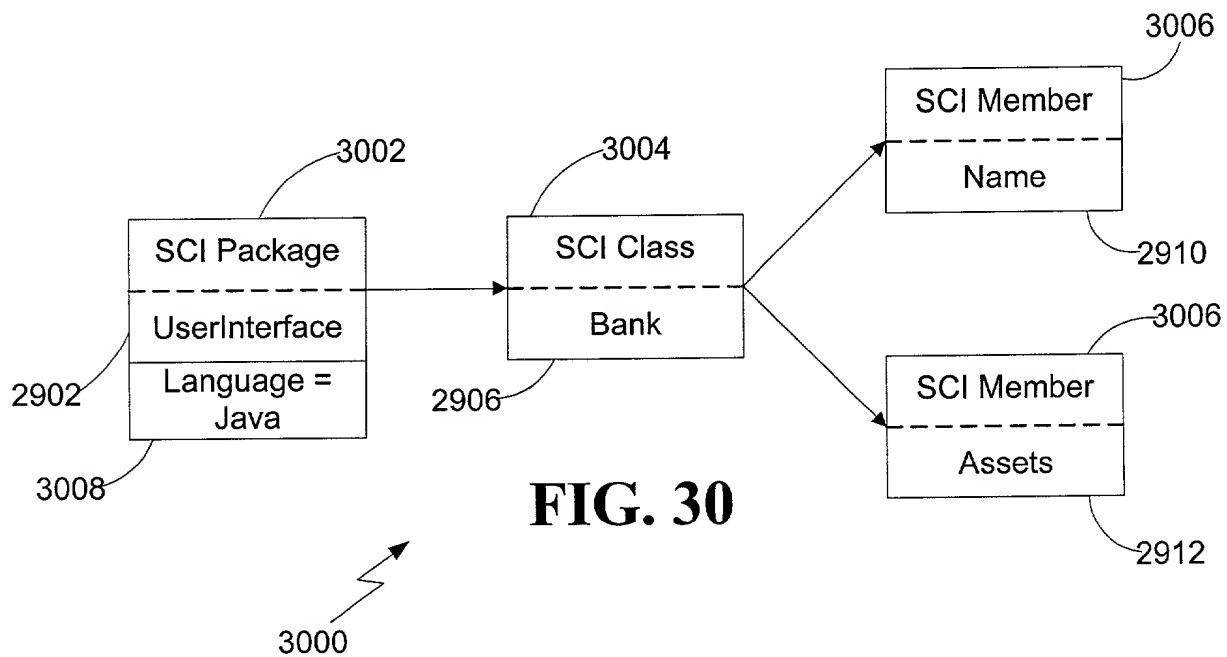
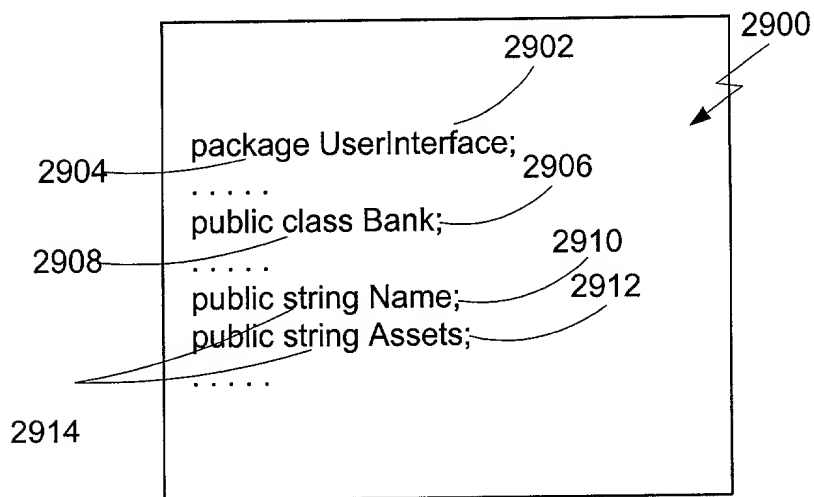
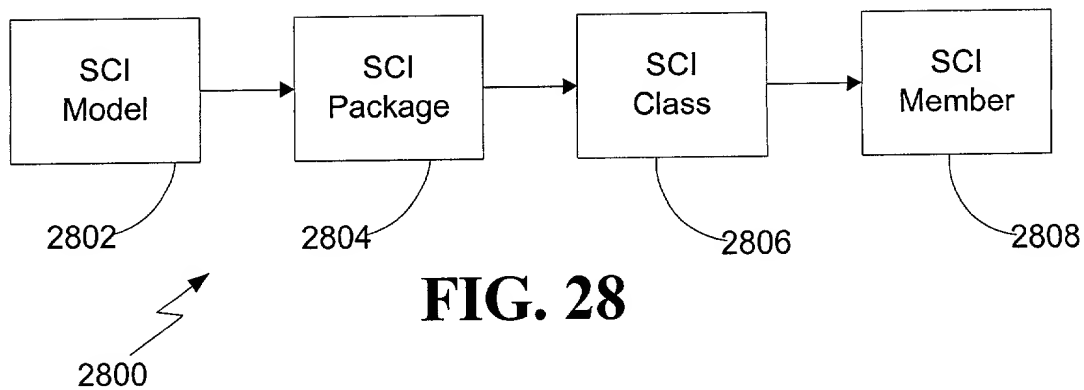
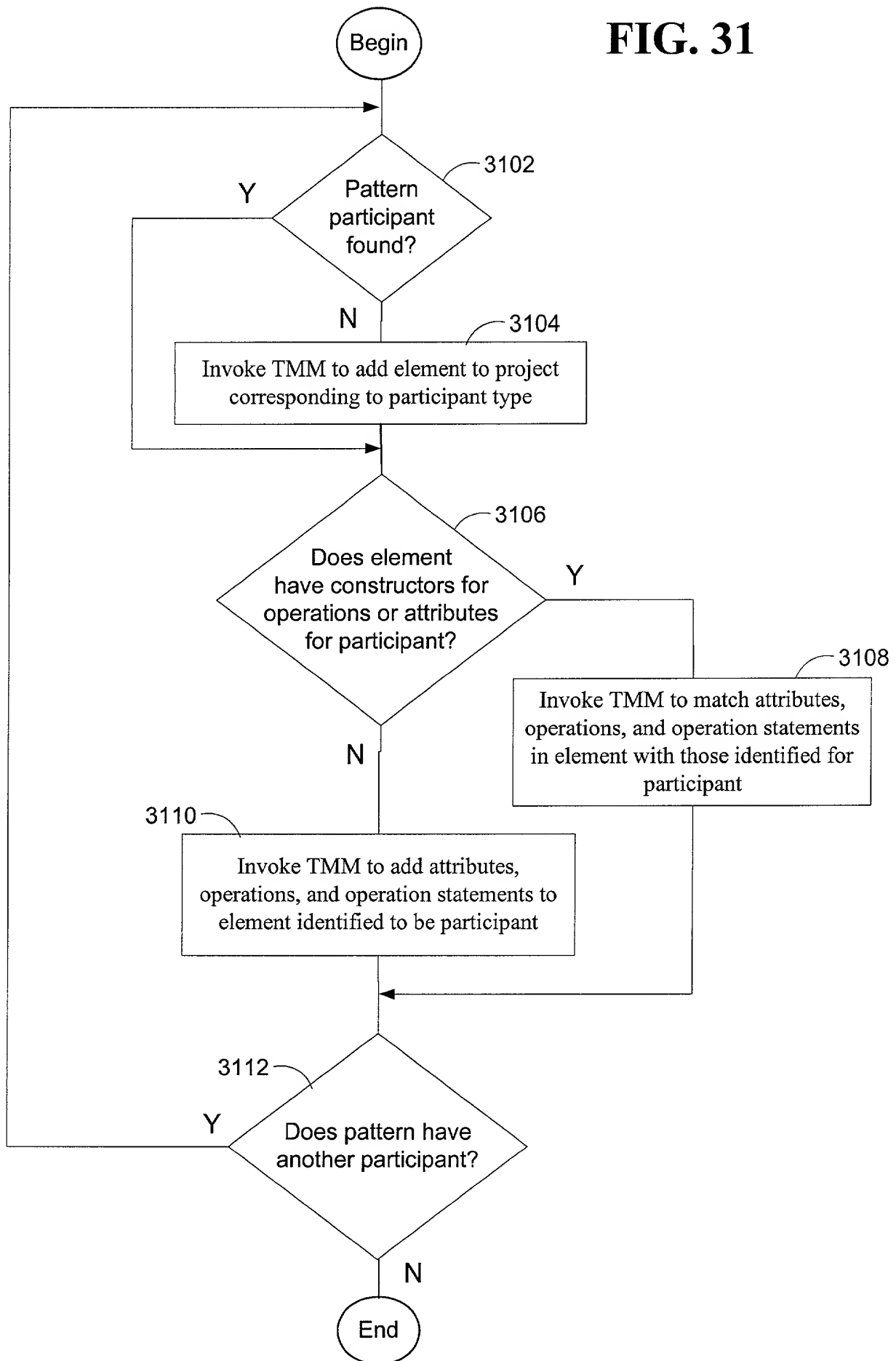


FIG. 31



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

That my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

That I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR GENERATING, APPLYING AND DEFINING A PATTERN

the specification of which (check one)

(x) is attached hereto.

() was filed on _____ as

Application Serial No. _____

and was amended on _____

That I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

That I acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

That I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)**Priority Claimed**

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐
☐

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐
☐

Yes

No

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

60/157,826

(Application Number)

October 5, 1999

(Filing Date)

60/199,046

(Application Number)

April 21, 2000

(Filing Date)

That I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

United States Application(s)

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)-(Patented, pending, abandoned)
--------------------------	---------------	---

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status)-(Patented, pending, abandoned)
--------------------------	---------------	---

That all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and request that all correspondence and telephone calls in respect to this application be directed to Marina N. Saito, SONNENSCHN, NATH & ROSENTHAL, P. O. Box 061080; Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080

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